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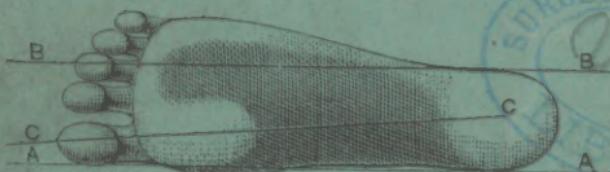
McCOMBER'S TRACKS:

AN APPEAL

TO FATHERS AND MOTHERS TO SAVE THEIR CHILDREN'S
FEET FROM DEFORMITY.

BY JOEL McCOMBER,

INVENTOR AND PATENTEE OF THE "McCOMBER LAST;" ALSO
OF THE "McCOMBER PATENT GLOVE-FITTING
BOOTS AND SHOES."



OFFICE AND STORE:
UNION SQUARE, COR. BROADWAY AND 15TH STREET,
Entrance No. 27 15th Street, New York.

1876.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1876, by JOEL McCOMBER, in the Office
of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

NEW ENGLAND TESTIMONIALS.

See 3d page of cover.

BOSTON, July 21, 1873.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: I have, for several months past, worn a pair of boots made upon your patent lasts, which have given me entire satisfaction. No other last ever suited me so well.

CHAS. ENDICOTT, State Auditor of Mass.

BOSTON, Aug. 20, 1873.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: Having worn boots made on your "patent last," I desire to express my entire satisfaction with the ease and comfort experienced from an excellent fit. The usual annoyance and unpleasantness of "breaking in" a new pair of boots is entirely obviated, — the boots fitting the foot at the start, and retaining their shape and beauty better than those made on the old plan.

J. A. CUMMINGS, 102 Washington St.

BOSTON, Aug. 20, 1873.

MR. J. McCOMBER — Dear Sir: I have worn a pair of shoes for several months that were made on your last, and they give perfect satisfaction. They have been the most comfortable pair of shoes, and also kept their shape better, than any I have ever worn.

Yours truly, GEO. T. ANDREW, 5 Temple Place, Boston.

BOSTON, Aug. 22, 1873.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq. — Dear Sir: I have worn a pair of shoes made on your patent last, and they have given perfect satisfaction. I shall wear no more of the old style if those made on your last can be found in this city.

C. W. HOLDEN, 102 Washington St.

BOSTON, Aug. 22, 1873.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: I have worn two pairs of boots made on your patent lasts. As for style, ease, and comfort, they surpass anything I have ever worn. I have recommended them to several of my friends, and they also say they will never have their shoes or boots made on any other lasts.

Yours respectfully, JAMES H. WILLIAMS,
30 Hanover St., Room 6.

SALEM, N. H.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: I have worn a pair of shoes for more than three months made over your patent lasts. I have not had a day's comfort in any other boot or shoe for years. These are perfectly comfortable. And I would say to all, Try a pair of boots or shoes made over the McComber patent, and you will soon forget your pains, and bless the patentee.

Truly yours, REV. O. G. WOODBURY.

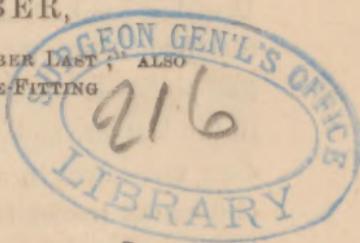
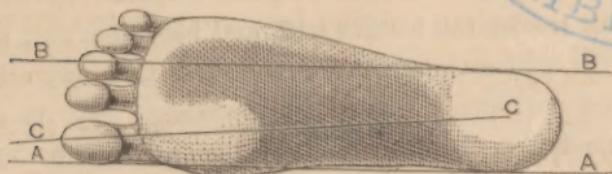
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SOMETHING NEW !

TILGHMAN'S WATERPROOF DRESSING,

FOR LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S SHOES.

I HAVE lately added to my stock a new and excellent Dressing for Ladies' and Children's Shoes. It imparts a fine black color to soiled kid and goat-skin, and adds a fine polish as well. It prevents the dust from sticking to the leather, and thereby soiling the clothing. Water does not affect it, and it can only be removed by wear. It does not render the leather stiff and hard, but soft and pliable. It will maintain its lustre longer than any other polish, and will present a finer appearance. By its use it is claimed that Rubbers may be dispensed with. All of my customers who have used it pronounce it the best thing of the kind which they have ever employed.

Price 50 cents per Bottle.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

I am happy to inform my customers and the public that the co-partnership of which I was the responsible head was dissolved on the sixth day of January, 1876, and that I am now the sole proprietor of the business in my new headquarters at Broadway and Fifteenth street.

To accommodate my large and rapidly increasing business, I have taken the large and beautiful store on Union Square, corner of Broadway and Fifteenth street, the entrance on Fifteenth street. Here I have ample accommodations for my workmen, and can personally supervise every department of my business. With my facilities thus largely increased, I will be able to meet the demands of my customers with promptness, and complete satisfaction. I extend a cordial invitation to everybody who has feet to visit my new establishment.

In thus taking a fresh start in my business, I heartily thank the multitude of prominent citizens whom I can enroll not only on my list of patrons, but of friends, and friends of my improved system of constructing Boots, Shoes and Lasts. I am now supplying more than one thousand of the leading families of New York, and also many from every State and Territory in the Union, besides some in Canada, with my Patent Boots and Shoes from my Patent Lasts, and it is a pleasure to know that the highest satisfaction is expressed in nearly every instance. I appreciate the fact that many of my patrons are earnest in advocating the advantages of the better way I have devised, and that they have become active and zealous missionaries in this great field of domestic missions. Let me

respectfully urge, that all who have been benefitted by my improvements can do a good deed to their fellow-beings, by telling them how the excellent qualities of my Boots and Shoes can lessen the amount of distortion and consequent misery in the world.

By persevering effort I have succeeded in educating an efficient corps of workmen in all departments of my business. The methods employed in my system differ so materially from those employed by ordinary boot and shoemakers, that even the best workmen under the old plan prove utterly incompetent for my critical demands. It therefore becomes necessary that the artizan should unlearn the mistaken principles of the system heretofore in vogue, and be instructed in the new and rational method.

In stock, not less than in style, I will maintain the excellence which has heretofore been a prominent feature of my business. I make up only the choicest, most costly, and most durable material, all hand-sewed work, and expect to receive for this aggregation of excellencies a fair price, and no more.

In conclusion, I desire to thank those intelligent and cultivated persons who have given voluntary testimony to the value of my system; I especially thank the physicians, the editors of health journals, the ministers and professors in educational institutions, and other public instructors, for the enthusiastic endorsements which they have kindly volunteered.

All communications should be addressed, and drafts made payable to me.

JOEL McCOMBER,
Union Sq., cor. of Broadway and 15th St.,
Entrance No. 27 15th St.,
New York.

A SUBJECT FOR REFLECTION.

FATHERS & MOTHERS SAVE YOUR CHILDREN.

"THE cry of the children" goes up from every household in the land for the cruel tortures inflicted upon them. There should not be a deformed or sickly child in any civilized country, and yet how few of them are absolutely healthy. The first right of every child is a sound, healthy, perfectly-formed body. It should be born thus, and no care should be considered too great to preserve it in a normal condition. A healthy, well-balanced mind cannot exist in an unhealthy, tortured body, and the mother who cares most for her child's mental vigor and moral purity will pay the greatest attention to its physical perfection. While this should be the rule, the fact is, that if the average mother should, with malice aforethought, turn her ingenuity to making the lives of her children miserable, she could scarcely succeed in doing worse than she does through thoughtlessness or ignorance. "Children's Rights" seem to be among those things that almost nobody feels bound to respect.

NATURE IS NOT AT FAULT.

They are born, and must run their own hard chances of living. If they grow to the estate of manhood or womanhood it is rather in spite of neglect and impediments thrown in their way than on account of

the care they have received. In babyhood they are the most abused of living creatures. Their little, tender, delicate bodies are bound and compressed with "bands" and "swaddles" until their vital organs are contracted or forced out of place, and their small, feeble feet and legs are cramped and dressed down and weighted with pounds of useless "long clothes," that prevent needful exercise of the limbs, impede circulation, and check growth. To give the child a trim figure, to display finery, to gratify maternal vanity, its best chances for growth, and health, and true beauty, are denied it.

MUSCLES MUST NOT BE RESTRAINED.

The restless little limbs of a healthy, properly dressed child are always moving, unless it is asleep. Deprived of thus gaining strength for the time when it is to bear upon them the weight of its body and begin to walk, no wonder that, cramped and confined as the nether limbs of our children are the first six or eight months of their lives, we have so many splay-footed, knock-kneed, bandy-legged children. Just look at a baby's foot.

BEAUTIFUL MECHANISM.

There is no more beautiful and curious member of the human body than a healthy, natural foot. Formed in graceful outlines, it delights the eye; constructed with admirable skill, having a mechanism worthy of the Divine hand which moulded it, it instructs the mind and fills the heart with admiration of Him who doeth all things well. And yet, while the skilled laborer and the artist unite their powers to provide suitable and handsome coverings for the limbs, body, and head; while science is called upon to preserve the body from disease, and to apply methods of strengthening and developing nearly every other part of the system, the foot alone, the foundation upon which the whole

body rests, is neglected. It is not only neglected, it is outraged, abused and deformed, by crowding it into coverings entirely at variance with nature and anatomy, as ruthlessly as molten metal is poured into the mould the shape of which it is expected to take.

PROGRESS OF DISTORTION.

I have spoken of the beauty of the foot as naturally made. How many of my readers can look at their own feet and call them beautiful? Why are they not as handsome as the infant's foot? It is because their feet have been most cruelly treated and their original beauty despised and destroyed.

The distortion of the foot commences with the first tottering steps of the child. From the time the innocent babe commences to walk alone, until death, this process continues. The first pair of shoes may not accomplish serious injury, but, as ordinarily constructed, they are sure to commence the deforming process. The foot is in a cramped, unnatural position, the great toe is forced inward towards the others, and its joints begin to put on the appearance of a protuberance. The abominable work is fairly begun, never to be suspended.

MULTIPLICATION OF WOES.

The delicate frame work of soft and imperfectly ossified bones forced into a leather case, having no proper adaptation to the shape of the structure which it clothes, gradually assumes the shape of the ill-formed and unyielding sheath. It does not thus conform itself to the barbarous structure provided for it without inducing suffering or causing a multitude of evils. It suffers at every point of contact, and it entails upon the poor little wearer numerous lasting woes. The circulation is impeded at the very period of youthful development,

when it should be free and unchecked. The result of this is found in congestion of the vital organs, the brain, the heart, the liver, and the kidneys. How many a child who has been called a poor scholar has owed the failure in the daily lesson to badly formed boots or shoes.

Let it be understood, as it is not now, that the mere local pain and disturbance caused by the present style of dressing the feet is but a very small portion of the evil which it does, or may cause. If free circulation is impeded at any one point, some other part of the body must necessarily have more than its share of blood—must be engorged, and engorgement is congestion, and congestion is always dangerous.

ARGUMENT FOR AMELIORATION.

A clear head and impeded circulation cannot go hand in hand. If this is true of adults it is even more true of children.

In extreme youth the human brain is very susceptible to all influences. The bones, muscles and tissues of the body are tender, and receive impressions readily; these impressions remain through life. As evil companions influence the mind and heart of a child, that the impressions and ideas received are retained forever, to the dire injury of his moral being, so the unnatural pressure put upon any part of the body leaves its traces in after years. As true now as ever is the old saying: "Just as the twig is bent the tree is inclined." The most evil companion a child's foot can have is a blunderingly-made ill-fitting shoe. Ask your family physician how many diseases may be engendered or aggravated by abuse of the foot, and after he has told you all he can think of, multiply the number of ills recited by three and you may hit somewhere near the mark, and get an appreciative idea of the

wrong done a little child by compelling him to wear a shoe of the present day. It behooves parents then to start right, as well in the physical as in the moral develop-

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT.

ment of their little ones. If they would have their children walk uprightly as men and women, let them be as careful how they distort their feet as they are how they permit their morals to be distorted. The errors of youth may be repented of; the deformity remains. To begin right with the child is the duty of the parent, because the child is not able to exercise intelligent judgment. With a start in the right direction all things are possible; but with a deformity commenced almost at the cradle absolute relief is difficult and uncertain. The Chinaman who compresses the feet of his infant daughter is scarcely more cruel, and is guilty of hardly greater barbarity, than the American father who suffers the tender feet of his children to be practically ruined for life by forcing them into the nameless abominations which are generally considered respectable foot coverings.

FACTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

The statements which I have made are not made at random, they are statements which will bear the most thorough investigation, and are the result of many years of study and experience in connection with the human foot. I have at last perfected a system for making lasts and boots and shoes to fit the feet, which has been deemed worthy of letters patent by the United States Patent Office, and which is so perfect and correct in its application that I am able to make lasts and boots and shoes which will not deform the foot, but which will fit comfortably and easily upon any foot. "Breaking in" is unknown in connection with boots and shoes made upon my plan. The shoes

are as easy the first day they are worn as they are after they have been in use a month.

TRY THEM AND BE COMFORTABLE.

This statement is not exaggerated, but is literally true, and all will agree that it is a result never before attained. It has been heretofore invariably conceded impossible to make shoes to fit the feet perfectly and easily from the start, and that will look well and present a graceful appearance. Nothing is farther from the truth. I assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that boots and shoes made by my system are handsomer and more artistic in shape and configuration than any other boots or shoes now in vogue.

BEAUTY, HEALTH, AND ECONOMY.

What more is desired in a shoe than that it is graceful in shape and healthful in its effects upon the wearer, and twice as durable as the old style, (because there is no undue strain upon it,) provided it can be bought for precisely the same material, cut and made upon correct principles, at the same price as the old, blundering, haphazard made shoe. Fathers and mothers, if you desire to see your children grow up healthy and happy, if you desire their own best good—as I know you do—lend a hand in crushing this monstrous evil, this deforming, abusing and contorting of human feet. It is right that a remedy should be found ; it is right that when found that remedy should be applied. I could give you a dozen tests which would prove what I say. I content myself with two. Try and see how much strength exists in your toes. There should be great strength there ; there is practically but very little. Very few can support themselves by their toes alone, without resting partially upon the ball of the foot. This is because people cannot nor

do not use their toes naturally when walking in the shoes now provided for them. If shoes were properly constructed all the toes would assist naturally in walking.

REASONS FOR OBEDIENCE TO NATURAL LAWS.

It is a fact not to be denied, that a very small percentage of persons who have arrived at mature years are in the possession of feet which approximate to the perfect shape of a natural foot. The boots and shoes and lasts for individual feet made under my system, and under my supervision, for those of all ages and of both sexes, from one year upward, can be had upon application to Joel McComber, Union Square, corner Broadway and 15th Street, entrance on 15th Street. The second and best test is to come and try them on your own feet and those of your children.

LASTS FOR CHILDREN.

The rapid growth of children's feet renders a frequent change of last necessary. This constant change would be considered rather too expensive for many families. To make it possible for parents to preserve the feet of their children with no expense except the cost of shoes, I have decided to make no charge for the frequent renewal of lasts. In fact, all who employ me to provide for themselves and their families my improved boots and shoes are provided with my patent lasts without charge. This will enable parents to meet the constant change in the size of growing feet without expense.

THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE McCOMBER LAST AND SHOE.

THE public labor under a strong delusion in regard to the true purpose of this *Last* and *Shoe*. My system has drafted the *Last* for sound, healthy, natural feet. Shoes made thereon will conform to such feet and confer all necessary support and protection, and, moreover, they will preserve the feet in a healthy, normal condition; but deformed, weakened, broken-down feet are all exceptions to the general rule, and must be provided for by exceptional provisions. It is unreasonable to expect that any Shoe made upon a *Last* corresponding exactly to a foot with its original symmetry unimpaired, should fit the same foot after it has become misshapen and distorted. Imagine a man with the misfortune of a humped back, demanding of his tailor a coat such as would conform to the symmetry of a well-proportioned individual, and at the same time requiring not only that the garment shall be a neat, handsome, easy fit, but that it shall conceal the hump which deforms him. No argument is necessary to convince a rational being of the utter impossibility of the thing, and yet some people come to me demanding precisely this absurdity. After their feet are literally ruined by the old system of shoe-fitting, as shown by muscles wasted and arches broken down, toes covered with corns and bunions, overriding and contracted, bones bent and twisted out of all natural shapes, with no regular bearing surfaces, but only a few callosities instead, they come to

me expecting that the McCOMBER SHOE will, as if by magic, restore such feet to all their pristine beauty and make them once more comely in appearance and comfortable in feeling. Some of this class tell me that they have not known any genuine comfort with their feet for many years, and that during this long period they have indulged in any amount of suppressed and expressed profanity against the craft. Now, to relieve these unfortunates and make their lives tolerable, I am compelled to deface the McCOMBER LAST, and yet they insist that their Shoes, compelling these deformities from necessity, must be *handsome* as well as comfortable, and at the same time not show their *deformities*. Bunions as large as hen's eggs cannot be thus concealed, whilst they must be relieved from pressure to permit ease and the gradual reduction of their size. If to these excrescences are added broken-down arches, by which the foot is broadened out, what is called a handsome, well proportioned shoe would only increase the evil. The McCOMBER Last and Shoe in all its perfection must be modified, and even deformed in its appearance (as I have said), in order to fit the abnormal foot, and therefore if the Shoe when finished does not look neat and comely, the fault is in the foot and not in the Last or in the system of manufacture. Moreover, if the customer does not accept and pay for the Lasts and Shoes which I am thus compelled to shape in order to meet his individual deformities, they remain upon my hands as so much dead and worthless stock. All this requires extra work and expense, for which some customers decline to pay, and it sometimes seems as if the distortions of their *soles* had brought about a still more serious soul deformity, for these suffering and distorted souls actually decline to accept the Lasts and Shoes made expressly for them, not

on the ground that they don't fit but because they are not handsome.

THE DISTORTED FOOT

Is a wonderful INDICATOR OF CHARACTER, no matter what may be said of the head. My daily experience has long since demonstrated that the Phrenologists have made an elevated mistake. Grimes teaches that by touching any special organ and exciting the will power in the same direction, the subject will give forth manifestations corresponding to the faculty indicated by the organ touched. But the foot-bumps (corns and bunions) are so well defined that, when excited, they produce their effects with still more certainty. In passing the measure over the foot I have found that a very gentle pressure on the most highly developed *organ* produces the most striking mental and moral demonstration, proving that the whole brain and nervous system are completely under the control of deformed feet. Thus an abnormal foot makes an abnormal brain and character.

Both men and women of culture and character, possessed of intelligence on other subjects, are yet constantly exhibiting the most perverted tastes, which lead them to exact such impossibilities that I sometimes feel constrained to abandon such portion of the adult population as are deformed beyond redemption and labor only for the little ones who can be saved from life-long misery and its attendant bodily and mental perversion, and for those grown-up folks only who have not had their feet and common sense wholly ruined by bad shoeing. I sometimes fear that by continuing to labor for the grossly perverted I shall be a victim of that bankruptcy of soul which extends far beyond the pocket. If I were merely required to fit the distorted feet, I could do it cheerfully

and successfully ; but to meet the extravagant exactions of warped and distorted brains at the same time, is a task transcending ordinary capacities and compelling extraordinary patience.

Let me say, in addition, that I cannot perform miracles ; I cannot speak into being a new and perfect foot in place of those distorted and diseased by long abuse and maltreatment. There is no power in my system to instantly remedy all the evil effects of long continued violation of Nature's simplest laws. I claim no such wonderful power, but I can and do put an end to the torture and torment which so many suffer ; I can and do deprive the corn-doctor of his business and his stipend ; I can and do give ease where misery has long existed. This change I effect not by any miraculous agency nor by any great display of genius, but simply by causing the sufferer to clothe his feet consistently. My acts harmonize with Nature's laws, without which harmony there is violence, and with violence there comes misery. I cannot hardly begin to cover every possible phase of this important topic in this little pamphlet.

Questions will arise in many minds, and these I will gladly answer when presented. In fact I solicit enquiries on all points connected with the feet, their diseases and their clothing ; all such will be answered verbally or in writing. I have other matter in preparation, which will be presented from time to time. One caution is necessary. Since my system has found favor with the best citizens there are other custom bootmakers here who claim to be using the McCOMBER Lasts. This is untrue. Those custom shoemakers who profess to enjoy this privilege are guilty of deception and fraud. For several years I earnestly endeavored to induce shoemakers to adopt my patent system, but without success. I found

that those who attempted to construct goods upon my lasts failed to carry out the plan, and either could not or would not work strictly upon my principle. They fell at once into the old groove, and made goods of no real merit. I therefore abandoned all idea of converting the New York shoemakers. I said, "They are bound to their idols: let them alone." No custom shoemaker in New York City has the right to use my system for making men's, women's or children's boots and shoes, except myself.

I desire to call the attention of intending patrons to the fact that they are not compelled to purchase the lasts made for them by me. I am willing to construct lasts to fit any feet, at my own expense, and to make boots or shoes upon them as the same may be required. These lasts will be carefully preserved for the use of the customer, and goods may thus at any time be ordered by mail as well as in person. I, however, continue to make my patent lasts for all who desire them, whether I am subsequently employed to construct boots or shoes upon them or not. I cannot assert that the ordinary shoemaker will make goods according to my principle, even when working upon my lasts, as I know of no other shoemaker, whether working upon my lasts or not, who knows any more about the anatomy and practical workings of the feet of the inhabitants of this globe than he does about making suitable shoes for the man in the moon. It is, therefore, not to be expected that he should put any ideas except the simplest mechanical ones into his work. To ensure entire success he must be

AN EDUCATED WORKMAN;

by which I mean a workman who comprehends the philosophy of my improvement, and is enthusiastic in his en-

deavors to carry it out in practice. He must be able to distinguish a perfect foot from an imperfect one. This is not always an easy thing to do. Injuries to the foot are not perceptible at a glance. Not all feet which show no protruding corns or sensitive bunions are normal feet, by any means. Some feet which look symmetrical to the untaught eye are really very bad ones, because broken down in their arches, wasted in muscular power, and contracted and weakened at points where fullness and strength should exist. The continued and unequal pressure of the old shoe has deformed them, but so gradually that their owner has not observed the change. The shoemaker, if he is to clothe this wonderful organ, must know an injured foot on careful examination, not from its protuberances, but from the relative position of its various parts. Indeed, I make bold to assert, that no man can clothe the feet properly who has not dissected the human foot for himself so as to fully understand its workings and mechanism.

To secure the best results it is important that

THE BEST MATERIALS

should be used. There are various qualities of stock in use, and the price of this, as well as the quality of the labor employed, of course, greatly affects the cost of the manufactured article. I use no material but the best to be obtained in the markets of the world. It is not difficult to lessen the cost of a pair of boots or shoes to the extent of from one to five dollars per pair. Many shoemakers practise this deception, assuring their customers that they use only the highest cost of goods and employ only the most skillful workmen. These deceptions are very costly to the customers. The profit upon a pair of boots made of low grade materials, by cheap

and inferior workmen, is greater than it can be when the stock and workmanship are of the best. Some customers, in their eagerness to secure what appears to be a great bargain, encourage this deception, and force the shoemaker, if his integrity is not well entrenched, to claim for his work and his materials superior excellence. The truth is, however, that the customer is the sufferer in every instance, since the best imported articles can only be had by paying their standard price in gold. I can assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that there is no boot or shoe maker in the city of New York or Brooklyn, or in any of the environs of New York, using the same grade of stock, and the same high class of workmanship which I employ, who does not charge more than I demand. It is common for patentees of valuable improvements to levy a high tariff upon the consumer for the use of their invention. I, however, make no charge for the use of my patent, and levy no contribution upon my customers on that account. It is enough for me to hold and employ it for the good of those who patronise my reformed system. I am satisfied with the very large patronage which the admitted excellence of my system has secured to me, and shall never demand the customary royalty from those who employ me.

UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS.

Let me remark, that not even the best leather and the most careful work will secure satisfactory results, so far as durability is concerned, in the case of feet having broken arches or semi-paralyzed muscles. The strain upon the leather is too severe for its powers of endurance. Diseased feet, too, with the perspiratory excretions vitiated by the maltreatment and distortion of the organs, tend to decay the leather and lessen its vitality. As I have had frequent occasion to remark, I cannot perform miracles.

I am compelled to decline to sell shoes which fit too closely, or which are too short, or which will in any way injure or distort the feet. Unless I am satisfied that the article is exactly right I do not allow it to leave my hands. Of this I insist upon being the only judge. So far as clothing the feet intelligently and perfectly is concerned, I must be considered the doctor, or I can do you no good. I ask that the grossly-abused sufferers who call on me for relief should have confidence in me and in my judgment. I strive to deserve that confidence by close study and earnest labor. I am devoting my life to the study of the human foot in all its parts, in dissections of natural feet and of morbid specimens, and in devising methods for the relief of the misery which bad foot-clothing has imposed upon humanity. New ideas and added knowledge are continually pouring in upon the conscientious, earnest seeker after truth ; and these I gladly apply for the benefit of those who seek my aid.

CERTIFICATES.

Letter from DANIEL AYRES, M. D., LL.D., Professor of Clinical Surgery in Long Island College Hospital.

BROOKLYN, April 16, 1875.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* Among my most unpleasant physical experiences has always been the ordeal of “being fitted” to a new pair of boots or shoes. Notwithstanding unusually careful efforts to secure skill in this matter, and irrespective of the fancy prices which such “high art” is sure to demand, the final result has, nevertheless, been the same—to wit: much suffering (or at best only reaching a tolerable comfort) and never entire satisfaction—until your inventive genius led me to hope for better results, and induced me to make a minute study of the principles upon which your “patent last” is constructed, and to compare them with the anatomical structure and physiological working of the human foot. So perfectly have you caught and applied the principles involved, that it now seems as though the whole attention of “last makers” in past ages had been given to the problem of “how *not* to achieve” the object in view. I am thoroughly convinced that you are entitled to the credit of being the first to demonstrate how it *can* be done, and that, too, effectually. This conclusion has been reached after watchful observations of many persons of both sexes, whose past experience was very similar to my own, and who, after the trial of boots and shoes made on your lasts, have not only assured me of their entire freedom from all discomfort, but that living and moving had become an enjoyment to which they had formerly been strangers. Yet to every individual *personal experience* must always carry the stronger conviction, and my own has realized far more than I was led to anticipate from the early study of your invention. I, too, can now affirm that the new shoes may be a “luxury” and no longer “the bane” of life; and, therefore, cheerfully give it as my opinion that any person using shoes, *properly* made upon

CERTIFICATES.

your lasts, need have as little uneasiness as in the wearing of perfect fitting kid gloves.

After observing so much physical suffering, annoyance, bad temper, loss of time, and ill health from this source, the best I can do is to congratulate both the public and yourself that you can be of such mutual assistance and benefit to each other.

Yours respectfully, DANIEL ATRES, M. D.

From the well-known Dr. W. W. HALL, editor of "Hall's Journal of Health."

"As the editor of *Hall's Journal of Health*, my attention was drawn several years ago to Mr. JOEL McCOMBER's investigation into the true anatomy and physiology of the human foot, with a view to furnish shoes not only beautiful, easy fitting and elegant looking, but so natural in their shape that those who wear them in early youth can never have corns, bunions, and other deformities; while those who are thus afflicted will find, that by wearing the McCOMBER boot or shoe, the steady tendency is for the foot to resume its natural shape, and for the deformities to be gradually corrected, and in very many cases entirely removed—as personal experience in our own household has demonstrated. The views embraced in Mr. McCOMBER's lecture before the American Institute are strictly physiological, and the advantages resulting from having the feet free from all unnatural conditions in the direction of walking, and promoting the health, happiness and comfort of the individual, are not overstated."

W. W. HALL, M. D., etc.

—
NEWTON, MASS., April 24, 1874.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* This certifies that I have examined Mr. McComber's last with pleasure and satisfaction, its principle being such as especially recommends it to the physician and physiologist, as, indeed, I should suppose, to the common sense of everybody.

The idea which serves as the basis of its construction, that of shaping the shoe to the foot, instead of shaping the foot to the shoe, is so simple and sensible that I wonder some one has not put it in practice long ago.

Shoes which I have had made for myself on this last fit exactly on first trial, and do not have to be "BROKEN IN," there being no pinching or pushing aside one way or the other, but the pressure being equable. Such a shoe is like a first quality kid glove of proper size, and can be worn about as comfortably the first day as the fourth week.

HENRY M. FIELD, M. D.,
Prof. Mat., Med. and Therap., Dartmouth Med. Col.

CERTIFICATES.

COLTON DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 19 COOPER INSTITUTE, {
NEW YORK, Feb. 7, 1876. }

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* It affords me pleasure to present to you the following facts: The boots which you made for me on your Patent Lasts have realized my highest expectations. For over thirty years past I have suffered from a troublesome corn on one of my toes. I have tried all sorts of boots, tight fitting and easy fitting, have had the corn cut and plastered many hundred times, yet, like a bad penny, the corn would return. I have expended at least a hundred dollars in efforts to remedy that tormentor. Three months ago, after having the corn shaved and plastered as usual, I put on the boots you made for me. *The corn has entirely disappeared, and my foot is sound and well!*

I can account for this remarkable result only by the following facts: You make a snug and perfect fit around the *ankle, instep* and *waist*, thus holding the foot in one and the proper place, preventing all slipping and friction—the real cause of corns. In the second place, the front part of the boot is made sufficiently broad so as to give ample play to the toes, and yet is shapely. I never wore a finer shaped boot. My feet, partially deformed before, are now assuming their natural shape.

The boots which you made for my wife have afforded equal satisfaction.

For children, boots and shoes made on your plan must prove invaluable in preventing these deformities, which in after years it is so hard to remedy. “An ounce of prevention,” etc.

Accept my thanks for the service you have done me.

Respectfully yours, G. Q. COLTON.

ATLANTA, GA., Jan. 30, 1876.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* I take pleasure in stating that the shoes you made for me some four months ago have given the utmost satisfaction. I can say, in all candor, that the pair referred to, of your manufacture, are the only shoes I have worn with any comfort for the past twelve years.

Very respectfully yours, THOMAS T. WRIGHT.

From REV. W. H. LITTELL, Setauket, Suffolk Co., L. I.

NEW YORK, June 7, 1875.

JOEL MCCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* The boots I secured of you about a month since have been worn every day, and I have enjoyed such comfort as I never thought possible.

This morning, while at work in my garden, stable, etc., I put on, for the first time since my return, my old boots, and am led by the contrast to wonder how I endured them so long.

Yours very truly, WM. H. LITTELL.

CERTIFICATES.

NEW YORK, November 1, 1875.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* Please make me another pair of button boots, same as first, on your Patent Last, for they have made me happy for the past eight months, and I would take pleasure in recommending your Last not only to those suffering from tender feet but to all who desire a perfectly comfortable boot.

I could not, after my experience, be induced to use any other.

Yours truly,
D. M. DE FOREST,
Asst. Sup't. Lord & Taylor's,
20th street and B'way.

83 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—I have practically tested your Patent Shoes, and from experience pronounce them the only completely-fitting and really comfortable shoes I have ever worn. The adaptation to the shape and action of the foot is perfect—all that the most fastidious could ask.

JOHN B. WOLFF,

SALEM, YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA, Oct. 23d, 1875.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER.—I received the Boots you sent me all right, and after wearing them two or three weeks I find they are splendid to walk in. They keep my feet warm, and are nice and easy; they don't bind anywhere, and fit perfectly. Those that are in trouble with tight boots deserve to suffer if they will not buy a pair of your easy-fitting boots. You can make what use you like of these remarks. Please mail me one of your "Illustrated Pamphlets" on the human foot. Please address
S. A. KINNEY.

From the Rev. Alex. H. Clapp, D. D.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7, 1876.

J. McCOMBER, ESQ.—*Dear Sir:* I have looked into your theory of the right and comfortable way to clothe the human foot, and believe in it. I have seen enough of your work to know that you can do what you promise; and the more you can persuade men, women, and children to let you make their boots and shoes the better it will be for them. Yours truly, A. H. CLAPP.

944 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK, May 10, 1876.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* Having worn boots during the past year manufactured by yourself on your Patent Last, I unhesitatingly and cheerfully recommend your system to all who would enjoy immunity from ill-fitting, poorly-made foot gear.

W. M. PRATT, M. D.

CERTIFICATES.

20 IRVING PLACE, NEW YORK, Feb. 7, 1876.

JOEL MCCOMBER, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* Having worn boots of your manufacture, constructed on anatomical principles, I can bear witness to their perfect ease and comfort. I regard it of the greatest importance that children should wear your boots and shoes, then the community would be free from deformed feet—a perfectly shaped foot, except among young children, being unknown.

Very respectfully yours,

EDWARD SUTTON SMITH, M. D.

33 IRVING PLACE, NEW YORK, Feb. 9, 1876.

MR. MCCOMBER—*Sir:* I have worn the boots that you made for me without even a twinge or a pain, though afflicted with bunions and corns.

Your system and plan of constructing a boot or shoe is decidedly scientific, and if universally adopted would prevent all deformities of the pedal extremities with which humanity now so universally suffer. I particularly recommend your plan and system to children and young people before their feet have been ruined by wearing the death-dealing and agonizing abominations in the shape of the old boots and shoes.

It seems almost incredible that there could be such a difference in making boots and shoes. But a trial of your make will convince the most sceptical that science has, in your system, achieved a victory.

ANDREW JAMES PARK, M. D.

206 EAST THIRTEENTH ST., NEW YORK, Feb. 8, 1876.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER—For several years I have suffered exceedingly from ill fitting shoes. I have on hand several pairs of gaiter shoes but little worn, thrown aside because the agony they occasioned made the wearing of them unendurable. The shoes you made for me at the close of last year have been daily worn ever since with great comfort.

How much distress might be saved from childhood to adult and old age should parents provide their children with shoes made upon the principle of your Lasts cannot be estimated.

I do most cordially recommend to all who would save themselves from contracting deformities in their feet and life-long sufferings to use boots and shoes made in accordance with the principles laid down in your book.

THOMAS RITTEN, M. D.

NEW YORK, March 14, 1876.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER.—*Dear Sir:* I am wearing shoes made on your "Patent Last." They prove to my entire satisfaction that your Last is constructed on the true principle.

W. H. SCOTT, M. D.

CERTIFICATES.

No. 47 E. 30TH STREET, October 4th, 1875.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER, No. 14 Union Square—*Dear Sir:* Having read your book on the subject of the treatment of the *Human Foot* by your *Patent Last*, I was induced to order a pair of shoes made as a *test* of its truth. I am happy to state my most perfect satisfaction with the accurate *fitting* as well as the beauty of the shoe made over the *Last*. It being made to conform to the *foot* and not the *foot* to the *Last* ensures such ease which I have for the first time realized in a pair of new shoes.

I also appreciate your views in regard to the feet of our children, which have been heretofore neglected by parents generally, whereby frequent distortion of them may be prevented by the early use of your *Patent Last*.

I should hope that parents may begin to appreciate the sound and true principles on which the said *Lasts* are founded.

Yours truly,

E. STORER, M. D.

From REV. ALFRED TAYLOR, *Office of the "Christian at Work."*
102 CHAMBERS STREET, NEW YORK, January 1, 1876.

JOEL MCCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* If you succeed in making the rest of your patrons as comfortable as you have made me you are a benefactor to your race. No good christian ought to walk in any other boots than those which are made on your *Lasts*, and no preacher should be shod with any other if he would make himself and his congregation happy. What tough, corny, crooked, bunionsized old feet you must have to deal with! I want all my children furnished with your boots and shoes so that they shall have the full use of every joint and muscle.

May the memory of your good works ever be gratefully cherished by the thousands of people whom you are setting free from bondage.

Yours truly, ALFRED TAYLOR.

From J. V. C. SMITH, M. D., *formerly Professor of Anatomy in the Berkshire Medical College and New York Medical College, Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal for twenty-five years, late Mayor of Boston, etc., etc.*

NEW YORK, Feb. 8th, 1876.

Having worn boots manufactured by Mr. MCCOMBER, which are constructed to meet the conditions of the foot, often deformed and injured by a misfit of boots and shoes made without the slightest reference to the anatomical arrangement of the bones and muscular cordage attached to them, I cheerfully bear testimony to the improvement he has accomplished. Medical men cannot fail to appreciate the peculiar advantages to be derived from Mr. MCCOMBER's adaptation of his work to the part so essential to our comfort in locomotion. J. V. C. SMITH, M. D.

CERTIFICATES.

NEW YORK, Oct. 30, 1875.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq.—*My Dear Sir:* For many years it has been my misfortune to suffer from tender feet.

A friend called my attention to your Patent Lasts. I lost no time in making an examination of the Last, as also to give an order.

It seemed to me that while you are able to relieve those who are afflicted in many ways, yet the peculiar construction of the Last is of such a character as not only to remedy many evils but to prevent almost entirely any reappearance of the difficulties just alluded to.

I have been wearing your shoes for some time and am pleased to say they give me a comfort that I have not enjoyed for many years. Very respectfully,

 M. JEFFERY, Baltimore, Md.

From the Rev. A. T. TWING, D. D., Sec., etc.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7, 1876.

MR. J. McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* I have not only no hesitation in saying, but I say with great pleasure, that the boots I purchased of you (made on your Patent Last) have given me, and are giving me more satisfaction, in every way, than any I have worn before. They are perfectly easy to my feet, and for the first time in my life the soles are wearing evenly.

I recommend all people who have tender feet, or do not wish to have tender feet, to engage you to supply them with boots and shoes.

A. T. TWING

96 PARK AVE., NEW YORK, Oct. 24, 1875.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* Your mode of constructing feet covering, in my judgment and experience, is the best, as regards ease and comfort, also durability. I recommend them to all, and especially to those who have tender or distorted understandings.

Yours,

 C. F. CLARKSON, M. D.

From the Rev. A. OSTRANDER, RHINEBECK,

NEW YORK, March 25, 1876.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* The button Boots came safely to hand yesterday. They are every way satisfactory. In respect to fit, style, and workmanship it is difficult to see where they could be improved.

I am fully persuaded of the correctness and value of your method; and I hope henceforth with my family and any others I may influence, to be among your regular customers.

Yours respectfully,

 A. OSTRANDER.

CERTIFICATES.

DANSVILLE, LIVINGSTON CO., N. Y.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*My Dear Sir*: I wish to express to you the high appreciation I have of the service you have done humanity in giving to it the most scientific style of boot in relation to the foot, anatomically considered, I have ever seen.

So comfortable from the first moment, and always so easy, nothing could induce me to return to the ordinary style.

Yours very truly, DR. JAMES H. JACKSON.

23 SOUTH OXFORD STREET, BROOKLYN, April 15, 1875.

JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir*: The boots you made for me upon your "patent last" are entirely satisfactory. They have already afforded me very great relief, and I desire to recommend any one who has suffered from deformed or tender feet, or who wishes to avoid such suffering, to try boots made upon your lasts.

Very respectfully yours, CHAS. COREY, M. D.

203 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, April 27, 1875.

MR. J. McCOMBER—*Dear Sir*: In justice to you I would say, the comfort I take with my new shoes compels me to express my great satisfaction. After many years of suffering, as many others have, I was induced by my son (who is much pleased with the shoes you made for him) to find your store on Union Square.

I struggled with the prejudices of habit against new theories or inventions, but I have yielded to what has reached my reason; and the shoes made from your patent last, after your peculiar way or method of fitting the foot, has just begun to enable me to take comfort where I have so long suffered.

Yours respectfully, S. W. C. WHITE.

744 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, May 21, 1875.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir*: After many unsuccessful attempts to get boots that would afford me comfort, I was induced to have a pair made on your Patent Last. These I have worn constantly for four months with entire satisfaction. I therefore take pleasure in recommending your Last, not only to those suffering from tender feet, but to all who desire a perfectly comfortable boot. I could not, after my experience, be induced to use any other. Yours respectfully, Wm. W. WYMAN.

39 WEST 26TH STREET, May 19, 1875.

JOEL McCOMBER—*Sir*: It gives me pleasure to say the boots you made for me are the most easy and pleasant and agreeable boots I have ever worn. Truly yours, SALLIE HOLLEY.

CERTIFICATES.

289 HICKS ST., BROOKLYN, 1874.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* I would cheerfully add my testimony to numerous others, that the boots and shoes manufactured by you, upon the McComber patent last, are not only elegant in style, but as easy and comfortable as if moulded to the feet. Since I purchased the first pair, nearly two years since, I have worn none others, and, while these can be obtained, shall never torture my feet by ill-fitting boots. Very truly,

EVELYN K. JOHNSON.

LIVINGSTON ST., BROOKLYN.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* During the past year I have worn shoes made on McComber's last, and they have given me entire satisfaction in point of ease and durability.

MRS. S. E. RICE.

NEW YORK, June 9, 1874.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* The shoes made for me on the McComber patent lasts promise well. The habit of running down has been overcome. My step is firmer and more easy. As to shape and comfort, the shoe is satisfactory.

CHAS. WAGER HULL.

NO. 8 WARREN STREET, N. Y., June 11, 1874.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* I take great pleasure in informing you of the fact that I am very much pleased with the boots made on the McComber lasts. I have worn nothing else for the last two years, and do not intend to for years to come. I feel perfectly safe in recommending them to others. I think you are a public benefactor, and wish you great success.

Yours truly, W. S. HUNTINGTON.

82 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, April 23, 1875.

This is to certify that I have been wearing boots manufactured by JOEL McCOMBER, on his patent lasts, and freely and cheerfully say that I have never enjoyed such comfort with my feet. In my opinion Mr. McCOMBER's theory is perfect.

JOSEPH J. CORNELL.

150 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, April 24, 1875.

To JOEL McCOMBER, Esq. *Dear Sir:* I take pleasure in testifying to the comfort and satisfaction my whole family have taken in wearing the shoes made on your patent lasts. We will now have nothing else. Very truly,

GEO. M. COIT.

CERTIFICATES.

41 WEST 26TH STREET, *May 1, 1875.*

I take great pleasure in saying that Mr. McCOMBER's boots are the most satisfactory of any which I have ever worn. Until I found them I never knew what comfort was with new boots. I put on those made by Mr. McCOMBER and walk at once without suffering or annoyance. I am sure they would be worn by everybody if there excellencies were generally understood.

MRS. KATE RATHBONE.

203 BROADWAY, N. Y., *April 28, 1875.*

MR. McCOMBER has made a pair of lasts and shoes for me, and I have had demonstrated to my *comfortable* satisfaction that his theory is correct. So long as I wear boots and shoes they shall be made only on the "*McComber last.*"

G. C. WHITE, JR.

JOHNSTOWN, N. Y., *May 21, 1875.*

MR. McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* After having worn a pair of your boots made upon the McComber Patent Last, I must say that they are the most comfortable boots I have ever worn, and I shall hereafter wear no other kind.

J. H. DECKER.

HICKMAN, KY., *May 20, 1875.*

JOEL McCOMBER & CO.—*Dear Sirs:* Yours of the 15th inst. came duly to hand. I received the boots all right by express, and am very much pleased with them. Yours truly,

C. H. HUBBARD.

NEW YORK, *May 11, 1875.*

MR. J. McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* Having worn two pair of boots made on your lasts, I cheerfully testify to the satisfaction received. Your boots needed no "friend" to *break them in*—have worn squarely and done excellent service. I can recommend them honestly.

Very truly,

G. S. ADAMS.

NEW YORK, *May 10, 1875.*

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* We have received and tried the shoes made by you for us on your "patent last." They are "a perfect fit," and prove to our satisfaction that your last is constructed on the true principle, and is far better than those hitherto in use. We hope and expect that it will soon be generally adopted. We cordially recommend it to the public.

REV. DR. D. B. COE,
REV. DR. H. M. STORRS.

CERTIFICATES.

50 DOUGLASS STREET, BROOKLYN, *April 15, 1875.*

MY DEAR MR. McCOMBER.—The shoes you made for my son and daughter are exactly the fit; snug, and at the same time easy, and the best shoe ever in my family. I have carefully examined the McCOMBER last and shoes, and I must say that, in form and comeliness and comfort, your principle meets a long desired want. I am impatient to see these shoes on every member of my family, and I hope we may always have these shoes, and no others.

Wishing you adequate rewards for your long study and labors in this direction, I am, very truly, your friend,

REV. R. O. PAGE.

126 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, *April 15, 1875.*

MR. McCOMBER—I take pleasure in testifying to the comfort I have derived from wearing boots made on your patent last. I never knew what it was to be able to put on a new pair of boots and wear them right along (without any breaking in process) till I tried your last. The utility of your invention cannot be doubted, and for comfort and neatness I do not think that boots made on your last can be equalled by any other make.

JAMES M. McLAREN.

131 MERCER ST., NEW YORK, *July 7th, 1875.*

MR. McCOMBER.—It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the great value I place on your patent boots since wearing them. I have never had anything so near what a man wants as the pair I now wear. Yours,

A. L. THOMAS.

137 EIGHTH ST., NEW YORK, *July 8th, 1875.*

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* Not having had time to procure a pair of boots to be made upon the lasts you delivered to me in February last, before sailing for Liverpool, I carried the lasts to London and directed a celebrated bootmaker in Oxford street to make me a pair of boots upon them. He did so, and I began to wear them on the very day they were finished. They were not only perfectly comfortable as walking boots, but I found, in a very few days, that sensitive spots upon my feet, which had been troublesome after a long walk in other boots, were not only no longer sensitive but had absolutely been cured. I take great pleasure in saying, that I shall hereafter have all my boots made upon your last. I cannot imagine how any one who has experienced the comfort your boots afford can consent to wear any others.

M. GIBBS.

CERTIFICATES.

316 W. 34TH ST., NEW YORK, June 3rd, 1875.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* The shoes you made for me on your patent last have given me entire satisfaction—in fact I never before had so much comfort with a new pair of shoes. I will never again be without two pair. You may therefore make for me one pair more, just like the others, and send them to me with your bill. I consider your patent a very decided improvement on the old style of boots and shoes. Yours truly,

L. RINGGOLD SHARP.

From HON. FRANK FULLER, formerly Governor of Utah, 137 Eighth Street, New York.

I have been seeking for perfect boots for a quarter of a century, and have patronized all the so-called "improvements" to be found. Each one has been more incorrect in principle, and more uncomfortable in practical use, than the other; but I find in McComber's system what seems to me to be the true principle. I do not see how the tenderest foot can be distorted by a boot made upon his last, or would I believe serious discomfort to be possible under his method. For myself, I shall continue to clothe my feet with his \$16 boots just as long as I am able to pay for them. I would say the same if his price was \$100 a pair. I say this most cheerfully, and I have not less than three reasons for saying it—first, because they are the handsomest boots I ever wore; second, because they are the most comfortable; and, third, because one pair of them will outwear two or three pairs of any other make.

FRANK FULLER.

From L. BAILY, the well-known leather dealer, 21½ Spruce and 187 and 189 William Streets, New York.

If the pedestrian, Weston, had worn a pair of shoes made on McComber's patent lasts, he could have walked the five hundred miles on time, and without chafing his feet. I have had my boots and shoes made for many years by a boot and shoemaker whose name has been before the New York public for fifty years, and at the time of his death he was the oldest shoemaker in the city; but with all his experience, never made me a pair of boots or shoes in which I walked as comfortably (even after the breaking in, as it is commonly called among shoemakers) as I have walked from the first hour I put a boot or shoe upon my feet made upon the McComber last. I have a good platform of sole to stand upon, which remains under the bearings of the foot, and the upper leather presses the foot evenly on every part without straining the leather, as well as without compression or friction upon the foot. They are as good shape after being worn six months as after having worn them one day.

L. BAILY.

CERTIFICATES.

From E. H. GIBBS, M.D., of Hall's Journal of Health, 137 Eighth Street, New York.

Joel McComber's patent boots and shoes must commend themselves to every anatomist who will carefully study their construction with reference to the human foot, and the duties which are imposed upon it. He is clearly very far in advance of all others in this important specialty. His boots are entirely comfortable from the first hour, and are honestly made of only choice materials. They are at once the most symmetrical, the most comfortable, and the cheapest foot-clothing to be found.

E. H. GIBBS.

BROOKLYN, Nov. 24th, 1874.

From a somewhat extended observation of deformed and tender feet, and of boots and shoes as they are ordinarily made, it is apparent that *deformed feet* (*i. e.*, a departure from the normal healthy foot) are very common, and that the coverings usually made fail to correct, and serve only to increase tenderness and deformity.

What is needed are shoes fitted to the natural foot. This work I believe the McComber last is doing, and in that belief I recommend it as the only practical application of correct principles.

JEROME WALKER, M.D.

Letter from DR. H. C. VOGELL.

COLD SPRING, L. I., June 1, 1874.

Dear Sir: I am happy to say that the shoes made upon the last patented by Joel McComber are a perfect fit, and far exceed my expectation in the comfort with which the last is made to support the feet. I never had a new boot or shoe before that did not cause a dread of the breaking-in. In the shoes made on the McComber lasts they need no breaking-in, but yield comfort the moment the foot is placed in them. It is strange, indeed, that years of agony have been suffered to exist so long without some successful attempt to remedy it. The secret disclosed in the McComber last is, that the shoe is made to fit the foot, instead of making the foot to fit the shoe. I am glad, my old friend, you have secured its use, and if your customers do not rise up and call you blessed, I shall be greatly disappointed.

Yours truly,

H. C. VOGELL.

NEW ENGLAND TESTIMONIALS.

BOSTON, Aug. 23, 1873.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq. — Dear Sir: During the last eight months we have sold about eight hundred pairs per day of men's, boys', and youth's shoes, made on the McComber patent last, and they have given general satisfaction.

RICE & HUTHINS, 89 Bedford St., Boston.

BOSTON, Aug. 22, 1873.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq. — Dear Sir: I have proved and tested your patent last, in gents' as well as ladies' and misses' boots, and find them superior in fit and comfort, by adjusting itself to the foot, to any other last ever sold, and intend, for the future, to sell shoes made on your lasts exclusively.

JOSEPH BENARI, 413 Washington St.

BOSTON, Aug. 22, 1873.

J. McCOMBER — Dear Sir: We have sold boots and shoes made on your patent last for more than a year past, and they give the best of satisfaction. All who have worn them have expressed the opinion that, for fit and comfort, they are unsurpassed.

Yours respectfully, N. A. MOSES & CO.
139 Court St., Boston.

NORTH BRIDGEWATER, MASS., Aug. 20, 1873.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: During the past eight months we have sold upwards of 2000 cases shoes made on the McComber patent last, and we are pleased to inform you that all our customers unite in saying that they are the best fitting goods they have ever seen. We regard it as a perfect last.

Yours truly, J. A. & W. H. PACKARD.

BANGOR, ME., Aug. 14, 1873.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq. — Dear Sir: About one month ago I commenced using your patent lasts, and have made one hundred pairs of custom boots, and a great many goods for my jobbing trade, and the opinion expressed by my customers is, that THE McCOMBER LAST IS A BENEFIT TO HUMANITY. It is the best manufacturing last I have ever used, as boots made upon it fit *without fail*, and it is establishing itself in this section.

Yours truly, THOMAS HERSEY.

BOSTON, Aug. 27, 1873.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: Having worn several pairs of boots made on your patent last, I find them much superior to any I have ever worn, being more comfortable, stylish, and durable.

T. T. HARTFORD, Pattern Maker, 3 Friend St.



“Let us have light!”